GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4814
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2017
Pollution due to Coal Production
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the hazard of extremely high level of dust and water pollution created because of coal production in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of usage of water for coal production during the last three years, State and coal mine-wise;
(c) the status of modernization plans for equipments used in coal production and transportation with regard to treatment of generated dust and recycling of water; and
(d) the details of pollution generated along with its reasons and the steps taken to monitor and prevent the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Coal mining activities have some impact on environment around the local mining areas due to dust and water pollution. Before commencement of production from coal mines, the impact on environment due to coal mining project is assessed by an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study for each project and based on the same, Environmental Management Plans (EMP) are prepared alongwith the proposed pollution mitigation plan.

(b): No study has been conducted regarding usage of water for coal production. However, as per the study regarding mine water utilisation conducted recently, the subsidiary-wise details of mine water utilisation are furnished in the Table below.
(All unit in: Lakh Cum/year)
Subsidiary of Coal India Limited Quantity of average mine discharge Total Quantity for own use
(Industrial + Domestic) Community Use Total usage of Quantity Percentage use of mine water

A B C D E=C+D F=E/B*100
ECL
529 304 127 431 81
BCCL
1199 389 278 667 56
CCL
353 215 74 289 82
NCL
169 169 0 169 100
WCL
1399 445 308 753 54
SECL
840 436 128 563 67
MCL
954 206 748 954 100
Total CIL 5443 2164 1663 3827 70

(c): Modern eco-friendly technologies are adopted by coal companies for production of coal from the coal mines to meet current and future pollution control measures.

Coal India and its subsidiary companies have deployed superior mining machinery and use various measures to ensure that the quality of air remains within permissible limits and minimum impact on air pollution.

Coal India and its subsidiary companies are now deploying surface miners and state of the art mining equipment having higher capacity & productivity in its open cast operations. This eliminates drilling, blasting and crushing of coal for extraction of coal.

(d): Details of pollution generated and the steps taken to monitor and prevent:

Air pollution control:
Air pollution is controlled by regular spraying of water on haul & coal transportation roads by fixed as well as portable water sprinklers, Coal Handling Plants, all coal transfer points, coal & overburden (OB) faces, coal stockpiles etc. Other steps include fitting drills with

dust collection systems / wet drilling, black topping / concreting of coal transportation roads etc. Efforts have been made for use of more belt conveyors, rail etc. for coal transportation and to rationalize road transportation to reduce pollution, as per feasibility. Massive tree plantation in and around mines also reduces the impact of air pollution on neighboring areas.

Water pollution control:
Mine water is passed through sedimentation pond wherefrom, after sedimentation, clean runoff water is taken out for beneficial use such as domestic, industrial and agricultural purpose, after treatment to the extent possible. Effluents from workshops is passed through Oil and Grease Traps and recycled/reused for dust suppression and for cleaning purposes. Domestic effluents are being treated in Domestic Effluent Treatment Plants.

Noise pollution control:
Noise pollution is controlled through the careful selection of equipment, proper maintenance and insulation. Persons exposed to high noise level are being provided with ear muffles. Besides, tree plantation between work places and residential areas is also being adopted as a natural barrier for reduction of sound pollution.

Ecological damage control:
This is controlled by plantation on physically and biologically reclaimed mined out areas and on the OB dump areas, plantation in and around mines, road sides, township / residential areas, available vacant spaces and implementation of conservation plan for protection of flora and fauna as per EC. This is apart from the payment made for compensatory afforestation to Forest departments.

In addition the environmental protection measures are taken in compliance of approved environmental clearance conditions and also the conditions laid by respective State Pollution Control Boards while according consent to operate. Regular monitoring of various environmental attributes are carried out as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to assess the efficacy of environmental protection measures taken and if required additional measures are taken to keep the various environmental attributes within the prescribed limits of the Regulatory Agencies.

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